

Barthelson, Roger
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Roger Barthelson, Ph.D.
1770 N Lone Ridge Pl
Tucson, AZ 85745
October 6, 2003

Dr. Jerry Pell
Office of Fossil Energy
U.S. Dept. of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Dr. Pell,

I am writing in reference to the Tucson Electric Power Sahuarita-Nogales Transmission line DEIS. This proposed line is an exceptionally bad idea, and a bad deal for the citizens of southeastern Arizona. The proposed Western and Crossover Routes would needlessly damage a beautiful area being studied for Wilderness designation. A smaller 115kV line along existing routes would cost less and avoid damaging some of the uniquely priceless wilds in the area.

I also disagree with the whole function of the proposed line. I suspect that it's main purpose is to allow the utility to build a power plant down in Mexico, in order to avoid environmental regulations, labor regulations, and U.S. labor costs. This is clearly not desirable for the good of our state. We need jobs here, and we share our air with northern Mexico.

Further, I feel that we should be encouraging distributed generation of power, rather than creating more reliance on large, localized power plants. Alternative energy sources, eg. sun, wind, or fuel cells, should be encouraged. Distributed, small local power plants, including small gas-turbine facilities provide power and jobs in the local area. At the same time, many, smaller sources are less vulnerable to failure or terrorist sabotage.

Please, protect our local environment, and our true interests. Do not allow Tucson Electric to install the large line through a veritable wilderness.

Sincerely,


Roger Barthelson

Comment No. 1

Sections 3.2 and 4.2 present a description of the existing visual resources and analyze the potential impacts to these resources. Section 5.2.4 of the EIS acknowledges the citizen-initiated proposal for an addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Comment No. 2

A smaller transmission line in lieu of the proposed 345-kV line (e.g., 115-kV line) would not meet the international interconnection aspect of TEP's proposal, and therefore is not evaluated in detail in this EIS (refer also to Section 2.1.5, Alternatives Considered But Eliminated From Further Analysis).

Likewise, distributed generation serves a different purpose than the stated purpose and need of TEP's proposal, and thus, is not evaluated as an alternative in this EIS. Furthermore, as noted in Section 2.1.5, alternative generation services (including distributed energy resources) do not eliminate the need for the proposed project.

Comment No. 3

The Federal agencies do not have any information suggesting that any power plant construction in Mexico is reliant upon or otherwise connected to TEP's proposed project. Therefore, the potential for construction of power plants in Mexico is not a connected action and is not analyzed in Chapter 4, Environmental Effects, of the EIS.

Chapter 5, Cumulative Effects, of the Final EIS has been augmented to discuss the growth of electricity demand in Mexico and the United States and the potential for new power plants, and to describe qualitatively the potential impacts in the United States (including air quality impacts) from power plant construction in southern Arizona and Sonora, Mexico. Chapter 5 has also been revised to describe the regulation of power plants in Mexico (including coordination between the United States and Mexico), potential fuel sources, and associated emissions.

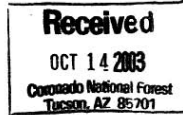
Comment No. 4

The Federal agencies note the commentor's opposition to the proposed project.

Barthelson, Roger
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Roger Barthelson, Ph.D.
1770 N Lone Ridge Pl
Tucson, AZ 85745
October 8, 2003

Sue Kozacek
Acting Forest Supervisor
Coronado National Forest
300 W. Congress
Tucson, AZ 85701



Dear Ms. Kozacek:

I am writing in reference to the Tucson Electric Power Sahuarita-Nogales Transmission line DEIS. This proposed line is an exceptionally bad idea, and a bad deal for the citizens of southeastern Arizona. The proposed Western and Crossover Routes would needlessly damage a beautiful area being studied for Wilderness designation. A smaller 115kV line along existing routes would cost less and avoid damaging some of the uniquely priceless wilds in the area.

I also disagree with the whole function of the proposed line. I suspect that it's main purpose is to allow the utility to build a power plant down in Mexico, in order to avoid environmental regulations, labor regulations, and U.S. labor costs. This is clearly not desirable for the good of our state. We need jobs here, and we share our air with northern Mexico.

1
cont. It would be tragic if this beautiful area were compromised by something as ugly as a transmission line. It would not only impair the view, but permanently damage a true wilderness area. My wife and I love to go bird watching, hiking, and taking pictures in the mountains in that area.

4 Please, protect our local environment, and our true interests. Do not allow Tucson Electric to install the large line through a veritable wilderness.

Sincerely,


Roger Barthelson

Comment No. 1

Sections 3.2 and 4.2 present a description of the existing visual resources and analyze the potential impacts to these resources. Section 5.2.4 acknowledges the citizen-initiated proposal for an addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Sections 3.1 and 4.1 present a description of land use and recreation, and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project, including impacts to wilderness areas and recreational opportunities.

Comment No. 2

A smaller transmission line in lieu of the proposed 345-kV line (e.g., 115-kV line) would not meet the international interconnection aspect of TEP's proposal and, therefore, is not evaluated in detail in this EIS (refer also to Section 2.1.5, Alternatives Considered But Eliminated From Further Analysis).

Comment Nos. 3-4

Refer to the responses to Comments 3 and 4 in the previous submittal from Roger Barthelson.

Becker, Suzanne
Page 1 of 1

Dear Sue Kozacek,
This letter is in reference to the "Tucson Electric Power Sahuarita-Nogales Transmission line DEIS and the needed Forest Plan Amendments". The Tumacacori and Atascosa Mountains are an exceptional area for primitive recreation - the powerline is incompatible with the natural characteristics there. I enjoy bird watching, hiking, biking, and canyoneering in the area affected by the powerline and would be negatively affected by the construction of the powerline in the Western or Crossover Routes. TEP proposes to build over 20 new miles of road for the Preferred Route. The road density in the Tumacacori EMA is already above acceptable limits as set forth in the current Forest Plan. More road building, even with associated closures (often unsuccessful) would be in gross violation of the Forest Plan. A Forest Plan Amendment would only decrease the already dwindling supply of remote recreational experiences in the region and would impact many sensitive wildlife and plant species that are an important aspect of our southern Arizona natural heritage. I urge you to deny the special use permit for the Western and Crossover Routes because they are not compatible with the current uses of the affected area.

Thank you,
Suzanne Becker
1112 White Spar Road A
Prescott, AZ 86303

Comment No. 1

Sections 3.1.2 and 4.1.2 discuss existing recreational settings and activities, and analyze potential impacts to recreation from the proposed project. Section 4.1.2 specifically evaluates impacts to ROS indicators such as remoteness and naturalness, both of which would have changes that are "inconsistent" with the existing ROS classes for much of the length of the Western and Crossover Corridors within the Coronado National Forest. Analysis of the proposed Forest Plan Amendments is contained in Appendix H.

Sections 3.3 and 4.3 present a description of the existing biological resources and analyze potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project.

Comment No. 2

The Tumacacori EMA of the Coronado National Forest in and of itself does not exceed road density limits set forth in the Forest Plan. Road density limits set forth in the Forest Plan are for the Coronado National Forest as a whole, not for individual land units or EMAs within the Coronado National Forest.

Regarding the effectiveness of road closures, any authorization issued to implement the proposed project on the Coronado National Forest would contain terms and conditions to ensure road barrier effectiveness and maintenance, as appropriate. Based on these terms and conditions for ensuring the effectiveness of road closures, the proposed project is consistent with Forest Plan standards and guidelines for road density.

Comment No. 3

The Federal agencies note the commentor's opinion that USFS should deny the authorization for the Western and Crossover Corridors because of their incompatibility with the current uses of the area.

Becker, Suzanne

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Subject: TEP Sahuarita-Nogales
Sent: 10/13/2003 11:25 PM
Importance: Normal

Dear Dr. Pell,

1 This letter is in reference to the "Tucson Electric Power
Sahuarita-Nogales Transmission line DEIS". I am writing
this letter to tell you that I do not agree with these proposals.
2 The preferred Western Route is the longest, most expensive,
and most environmentally damaging of all alternatives
considered. The Crossover route is equally terrible.

3 The Western and Crossover routes slice through a citizen's
proposed Wilderness Area and would forever scar the
outstanding natural characteristics of the area. There is no
"Need" stated for a 345 kV line by either the applicant (TEP)
4 or agencies – because most of the energy transmitted on the
line would not benefit Santa Cruz County, why is the 345
kV, and not a smaller line, needed? A smaller, less obtrusive
5 power line, such as a 115 kV line was not considered for any
route. Why not? A 115 kV line is cheaper, can more easily be
buried in sensitive areas near homes, and would serve the
long-term needs of Santa Cruz County. I do not support the
1 proposed routes because they do not serve Santa Cruz
cont. County's interests, as originally intended under ACC order
62011. They are an unnecessary economic, environmental,
and culture burden on Southern Arizona. Please consider
5 withdrawing the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and
cont. issuing an assessment that properly analyzes real solutions to
power needs in Santa Cruz County that include a smaller
power line and/or locally run power plant.

Suzanne Becker
1112 White Spar Road A
Prescott, AZ 86303

Comment No. 1

ACC Decision No. 62011 (ACC 1999) mandates the construction of a second transmission line to serve customers in Santa Cruz County, and does not reference the export of electricity to Mexico. However, TEP's stated purpose and need for the proposed project has a dual purpose to benefit both southern Arizona and Mexico.

Comment No. 2

The affected environment of the Western and Crossover Corridors is described in Chapter 3, and the potential environmental impacts (including socioeconomic impacts) from these alternatives are fully evaluated in Chapter 4.

Comment No. 3

Section 5.2.4 acknowledges the citizen-initiated proposal for an addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Section 4.3.2, Vegetation and Wildlife, states that the long-term reductions in biological activity (e.g., lack of vegetation in an area due to construction traffic) tend to be more pronounced in arid areas such as the proposed project area where biological communities recover very slowly from disturbances.

Comment No. 4

TEP's purpose and need for the proposed project, as provided to DOE in TEP's Presidential Permit Application, is "...to construct a double-circuit 345 kV, alternating current transmission line to interconnect the existing electrical systems of TEP and Citizens Utilities ("Citizens") in Nogales, Arizona, with a further interconnection to be made from Nogales, Arizona to the CFE transmission system...." In an applicant-initiated process, such as TEP's proposed project, the range of reasonable alternatives analyzed in detail in the EIS is directly related to the applicant's purpose and need.

Comment No. 5

A new power plant in Nogales is not a viable alternative to a new, second transmission line (part of TEP's proposal). Therefore, the alternative of a new power plant is not evaluated in detail in this EIS. Likewise, a smaller transmission line in lieu of the proposed 345-kV line would not meet the international interconnection aspect of TEP's proposal, and therefore is not evaluated in detail in this EIS. (Refer also to Section 2.1.5, Alternatives Considered But Eliminated From Further Analysis.)

Belov, Peter and Mary Alice
Page 1 of 2

From: beltek@gorge.net
Sent: Thursday, October 09, 2003 10:28 PM
To: Pell, Jerry
Subject: Environmental Impact Statement for Tucson Electric Power's proposed 345 kilovolt powerline.

Dr. Jerry Pell
U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Fossil Energy (FE-27)
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Dr. Pell,

1 | I am writing to urge you to withdraw the current draft
Environmental Impact Statement for Tucson Electric Power's
proposed 345 kilovolt powerline.

2 | The important goal of providing fully reliable electrical
service to the city of Nogales and Santa Cruz County must be
achieved. Unfortunately, instead of building the small transmission
line necessary to achieve this goal, TEP is using this need as an
excuse to build a massive, environmentally destructive, and extremely
controversial powerline designed to export power to Mexico.

We need to keep our power in our own country. We definitely do
not need to destroy such a beautiful area and an economically
productive area for neighboring towns for Mexico.

3 | TEP's proposed "Western Route" and alternative "Crossover Route"
would carve through some of the most remote and wild areas in
Southeast Arizona, forever scarring the beautiful and irreplaceable
landscape of the Tumacacori Highlands. This area contains several
roadless areas as well as a citizen's proposed Wilderness area home to
black bears, Mexican spotted owls, lesser-long nosed bats and
peregrine falcons as well as lesser known species such as the Sonora
chub, Mexican vine snake, elegant trogon and the Gentry indigo bush.
A jaguar was sighted in this area only two years ago.

Comment No. 1

The commentor's opinion that the Draft EIS should be withdrawn is noted.

Comment No. 2

TEP's purpose and need for the proposed project, as provided to DOE in TEP's Presidential Permit Application, is "...to construct a double-circuit 345 kV, alternating current transmission line to interconnect the existing electrical systems of TEP and Citizens Utilities ("Citizens") in Nogales, Arizona, with a further interconnection to be made from Nogales, Arizona to the CFE transmission system...." When a Federal agency is evaluating a request for a permit for a proposed action developed by a non-Federal applicant (e.g., TEP), CEQ has opined that Federal agencies should select alternatives which are feasible given the applicant's stated goals and reflect the "common sense realities" of the situation. Therefore, the Federal agencies are evaluating the proposed project presented by TEP to each of the Federal agencies (see Section 1.2.2, Federal Agencies' Purpose and Need Statements).

Regarding the trade of electricity across the U.S-Mexico border, the passage of NAFTA established the benefits of strengthening and enhancing the electricity trade with Canada and Mexico.

Comment No. 3

Sections 3.1 and 4.1 describe existing land use resources and analyze potential impacts to these resources, including potential impacts to the Tumacacori Mountains and the Tumacacori EMA of the Coronado National Forest.

Sections 3.1, Land Use, and 3.12, Transportation, discuss the IRAs within the Coronado National Forest. Sections 4.1, Land Use, and 4.12, Transportation, evaluate potential impacts to IRAs.

Belov, Peter and Mary Alice
Page 2 of 2

4 The draft EIS is clearly inadequate, because it does not address important alternatives to TEP's powerline which would provide reliable service without destroying our environmental and cultural heritage, and which would not require huge increases to consumers' electricity bills.

5 The recent blackout in the Northeast is an urgent reminder that our energy policy should be based on serving the public interest, not corporate private profits. I urge DOE to issue a new draft EIS which fully and rigorously explores all available options-including a local power plant and smaller power lines which would not serve Mexico-to meet the important public interest of providing reliable energy service to Santa Cruz County.

Sincerely,

Peter & Mary Alice Belov
42 Memory Ln, P.O. Box 111
Underwood, Washington 98651

Comment No. 3 (continued)

Section 5.2.4 acknowledges the citizen-initiated proposal for an addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Sections 3.3 and 4.3 discuss the existing biological resources and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project, including potential impacts to wildlife.

Comment No. 4

Section 1.2 of the Final EIS explains the roles of the Federal agencies in developing alternatives for the proposed project. Where an applicant seeks a permit for a particular business project, such as the case with TEP's proposed project, the Federal agencies generally limit their review of alternatives to those that would satisfy the applicant's proposal and decide whether that proposal is or is not worthy of receiving a permit. The Federal agencies do not review alternatives that are not within the scope of the applicant's proposal. Similarly, the agencies do not direct the applicant to alter its proposal; instead, the agencies decide whether a permit is appropriate for the proposal as the applicant envisions it. It is not for the agency to run the applicant's business and to change the applicant's proposal, but only to evaluate the environmental effects of the applicant's business proposal as offered. Accordingly, the EIS evaluates a reasonable range of alternatives, which include the full spectrum of alternatives that would satisfy the applicant's proposal.

Comment No. 5

A new power plant in Nogales is not a viable alternative to a new, second transmission line (part of TEP's proposal). Therefore, the alternative of a new power plant is not evaluated in detail in this EIS. Likewise, a smaller transmission line in lieu of the proposed 345-kV line would not meet the international interconnection aspect of TEP's proposal, and therefore is not evaluated in detail in this EIS. (Refer also to Section 2.1.5, Alternatives Considered But Eliminated From Further Analysis.)

Bickel, Bettina
Page 1 of 1

Bettina Bickel
9218 N. 51st Dr.
Glendale, AZ 85302

October 2, 2003

Dr. Jerry Pell
Office of Fossil Energy
US Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

Re: Tucson Electric Power Sahuarita-Nogales Transmission Line DEIS

Dear Dr. Pell,

I oppose the Western Route as proposed in the DEIS for the following reasons:

1 The proposed power line will unnecessarily damage an ecologically significant and highly scenic environment, including a citizen proposed Wilderness Area. This area is the largest remaining unprotected roadless area in Southern Arizona, and provides habitat for ten federally listed Endangered or Threatened species and 74 special status species. The disturbance caused by the proposed power line will increase the spread of invasive species, promote access by illegal off-road drivers and smugglers, and disrupt wildlife habitat.

2 The proposed power line is unnecessarily expensive, and does not serve any "need" as intended under the Arizona Corporation Commission's original order. A smaller 115 kV line would be less expensive, could be run along existing utility corridors, and would serve the long-term needs of Santa Cruz County.

3 Please withdraw this DEIS and provide an assessment of solutions such as a smaller power line and/or a locally run power plant. These options could meet the power needs of Santa Cruz County without the excessive expense and environmental damage that would result from the proposed transmission line.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,


Bettina Bickel

Comment No. 1

Sections 3.3 and 4.3 present a description of the existing biological resources and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project, including impacts to special status species and wildlife habitat and impacts related to invasive species. Sections 3.2 and 4.2 present a description of the existing visual resources and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project. Regarding the citizen-initiated proposal for an addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System, refer to the response to Arizona Wilderness Coalition, Comment 1.

Sections 3.1, Land Use, and 3.12, Transportation, discuss the IRAs within the Coronado National Forest. Sections 4.1, Land Use, and 4.12, Transportation, evaluate potential impacts to IRAs. Section 3.1.2 states that there is off-highway (off-road) vehicle use in the project area, and Section 4.1.2 analyzes the impacts of off-highway vehicle use as one of many recreational uses of the project area, including the Coronado National Forest.

The Federal agencies have revised Sections 3.1.1 and 4.1.1, Land Use; Section 4.12, Transportation; and Chapter 5, Cumulative Impacts of the Final EIS based on the U.S. Border Patrol's response (USBP 2004) to the Federal agencies' request regarding illegal immigration and law enforcement activities in the proposed project vicinity.

Comment No. 2

TEP's purpose and need for the proposed project, as provided to DOE in TEP's Presidential Permit Application, is "...to construct a double-circuit 345 kV, alternating current transmission line to interconnect the existing electrical systems of TEP and Citizens Utilities ("Citizens") in Nogales, Arizona, with a further interconnection to be made from Nogales, Arizona to the CFE transmission system...." In an applicant-initiated process, such as TEP's proposed project, the range of reasonable alternatives analyzed in detail in the EIS is directly related to the applicant's purpose and need.

Comment No. 2 (continued)

A smaller transmission line (e.g., 115-kV line) in lieu of the proposed 345-kV line would not meet the international interconnection aspect of TEP's proposal and, therefore, is not evaluated in detail in this EIS (refer also to Section 2.1.5, Alternatives Considered But Eliminated From Further Analysis).

Comment No. 3

Section 1.2 of the Final EIS explains the roles of the Federal agencies in developing alternatives for the proposed project. Where an applicant seeks a permit for a particular business project, such as the case with TEP's proposed project, the Federal agencies generally limit their review of alternatives to those that would satisfy the applicant's proposal and decide whether that proposal is or is not worthy of receiving a permit. The Federal agencies do not review alternatives that are not within the scope of the applicant's proposal. Similarly, the agencies do not direct the applicant to alter its proposal; instead, the agencies decide whether a permit is appropriate for the proposal as the applicant envisions it. It is not for the agency to run the applicant's business and to change the applicant's proposal, but only to evaluate the environmental effects of the applicant's business proposal as offered. Accordingly, the EIS evaluates a reasonable range of alternatives, which include the full spectrum of alternatives that would satisfy the applicant's proposal.

A new power plant in Nogales is not a viable alternative to a new, second transmission line (part of TEP's proposal). Therefore, the alternative of a new power plant is not evaluated in detail in this EIS (refer also to Section 2.1.5, Alternatives Considered But Eliminated From Further Analysis). Refer to the response to Comment 2 above regarding a smaller transmission line.

Bickel, Bettina
Page 1 of 1

Bettina Bickel
9218 N. 51st Dr.
Glendale, AZ 85302

October 2, 2003

Sue Kozacek
Acting Forest Supervisor
Coronado National Forest
300 W. Congress
Tucson, AZ 85701

Re: Tucson Electric Power Sahuarita-Nogales Transmission Line DEIS

Dear Ms. Kozacek,

1 Please deny any special use permits for the Western and Crossover Transmission Line Routes. The proposed power line will unnecessarily damage an ecologically significant and highly scenic environment, including a citizen proposed Wilderness Area. This area is the largest remaining unprotected roadless area in Southern Arizona, and provides habitat for ten federally listed Endangered or Threatened species and 74 special status species. The disturbance caused by the proposed power line will increase the spread of invasive species, promote access by illegal off-road drivers and smugglers, and disrupt wildlife habitat. An amendment to the Forest Plan would negatively impact many sensitive wildlife and plant species that our important parts of our unique natural heritage in Southern Arizona.

2 The Tumacacori and Atascosa Mountains are an exceptional area for primitive recreation. I enjoy hiking and bird watching, and believe the power line would be incompatible with the natural characteristics of the area and negatively impact opportunities for primitive recreation..

3 The proposed route would unnecessarily disrupt the scenic, recreational, and ecological qualities of this part of the Coronado National Forest, and I strongly urge you to deny the special use permits for the transmission line. Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,



Bettina Bickel

Comment No. 1

Sections 3.3 and 4.3 present a description of the existing biological resources and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project, including impacts to special status species and wildlife habitat and impacts related to invasive species. Sections 3.2 and 4.2 present a description of the existing visual resources and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project. Section 5.2.4 acknowledges the citizen-initiated proposal for an addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Sections 3.1, Land Use, and 3.12, Transportation, discuss the IRAs within the Coronado National Forest. Sections 4.1, Land Use, and 4.12, Transportation, evaluate potential impacts to IRAs. Section 3.1.2 states that there is off-highway (off-road) vehicle use in the project area, and Section 4.1.2 analyzes the impacts of off-highway vehicle use as one of many recreational uses of the project area, including the Coronado National Forest.

The Federal agencies have revised Sections 3.1.1 and 4.1.1, Land Use; Section 4.12, Transportation; and Chapter 5, Cumulative Impacts of the Final EIS based on the U.S. Border Patrol's response (USBP 2004) to the Federal agencies' request regarding illegal immigration and law enforcement activities in the proposed project vicinity (refer to the response to Sky Island Alliance, Comment 14).

Analysis of the proposed Forest Plan Amendments is contained in Appendix H.

Comment No. 2

Sections 3.1.2 and 4.1.2 discuss existing recreational settings and activities, and analyze potential impacts to recreation from the proposed project. Section 4.1.2 specifically evaluates impacts to ROS indicators such as remoteness and naturalness, both of which would have changes that are “inconsistent” with the existing ROS classes for much of the length of the Western and Crossover Corridors within the Coronado National Forest.

Comment No. 3

The Federal agencies note the commentator’s opposition to the proposed project.

Bieber, Margaret
Page 1 of 1

Acting Forest Supervisor—Forest Service
300 W. Congress
Tucson, AZ 85701

September 30, 2003


Dear Forest Service Supervisor:

I'm writing as a concerned member of the Green Valley Hiking Club. I love the beautiful desert in Pima County and the surrounding areas. Have you ever hiked or walked in Sycamore Canyon? It is so beautiful, I would hate to see a large power line ruining it. I feel our desert is so fragile, we must keep it natural and beautiful for our children and grandchildren. I've hiked for over 20 years, the desert is so pristine, we cannot take the chance that the pollution from Mexico, and power plants built South of the border add to dirty air here.

I urge you to reconsider, do not remove plants that have been struggling for centuries to survive are removed and a large power line mars our landscape.

Where will the line be built—do you have a map to show the exact route?
I have so many questions and doubts—Please save our beautiful area.

Sincerely,


Margaret Bieber
1342 Paseo Del Cervato
Green Valley, AZ. 85614

c: Dr. Jerry Pell
NEPA Document Mgr.
Office of Fossil Energy
US Dept. of Energy
1000 Independence Ave.
Washington DC 20585

Comment No. 1

Sections 3.1.2 and 4.1.2 present a description of the existing recreational opportunities and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project.

The Federal agencies do not have any information suggesting that any power plant construction in Mexico is reliant upon or otherwise connected to TEP's proposed project. Therefore, the potential for construction of power plants in Mexico is not a connected action and is not analyzed in Chapter 4, Environmental Effects, of the EIS.

Chapter 5, Cumulative Effects, of the Final EIS has been augmented to discuss the growth of electricity demand in Mexico and the United States and the potential for new power plants, and to describe qualitatively the potential impacts in the United States (including air quality impacts) from power plant construction in southern Arizona and Sonora, Mexico. Chapter 5 has also been revised to describe the regulation of power plants in Mexico (including coordination between the United States and Mexico), potential fuel sources, and associated emissions.

Comment No. 2

Sections 3.3 and 4.3 discuss the existing biological resources and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project, including impacts to vegetation.

Comment No. 3

TEP has not finalized the placement of the 125-ft (38-m) ROW within the 0.25-mi (0.40-km)-wide study corridors. If an action alternative is selected for implementation by each of the Federal agencies through the issuance of a ROD, then precise siting of the ROW and the support structures within the ROW would involve input from cultural, biological, and visual specialists, to identify and minimize impacts to each area of land to be disturbed. For this reason, the Final EIS cannot include maps showing a precise location for the ROW or the individual support structures.